

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3374

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3488

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, CI, US

SUBJ: ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL

REF: STATE 116750

1. EVENING MAY 22 NEW EDUCATION MINISTER ADMIRAL ARTURO TRONCOSO WAS DINNER GUEST AT SMALL AFFAIR AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. AMBASSADOR TOOK OCCASION TO EXPRESS HOPE THAT PROGRESS MIGHT BE MADE IN SETTLING STATUS OF ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL, A LONG-STANDING AND POTENTIALLY QUITE TROUBLESOME PROBLEM.

2. TRONCOSO SAID HE HAD NOT YET HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO FAMILIARIZE HIMSELF THOROUGHLY WITH THE ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL PROBLEM. FROM HIS DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR, HOWEVER, IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT ON BASIS OF WHAT HE KNOWS NOW, HE SEES THE PROBLEM AS PRINCIPALLY ONE IN WHICH A MAJORITY OF THE PARENTS OF THE STUDENTS HAVE REACTED AGAINST WHAT HE TERMED LEFTIST TENDENCIES AMONG THE HOLY CROSS FATHERS FORMERLY ON THE ST. GEORGE'S FACULTY, AND ALSO AGAINST THE GENERAL PERMISSIVENESS OF THE SCHOOL'S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

3. AMBASSADOR DESCRIBED TO TRONCOSO THE LENGTHY NEGOTIATIONS WHICH HAD BEEN UNDERTAKEN BY HOLY
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CROSS, CULMINATING IN FATHER HESBURGH'S VISIT WITH

AND LETTER TO PRESIDENT PINOCHET, AND SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS. STRESSED DESIRABILITY OF FLEXIBILITY ON PART OF GOC, ON BASIS LAID DOWN IN HESBURGH-PINOCHET CORRESPONDENCE. AMBASSADOR FURTHER SAID HE HOPED THAT GOVERNMENT-DESIGNATED MEDIATOR JULIO PHILIPPI, FOR WHOSE INTEGRITY WE HAD GREAT REGARD, WOULD BE GIVEN FULL ENCOURAGEMENT TO SEEK AGREEMENT.

4. TRONCOSO REACTED WITH GREAT GOOD WILL, BUT WITHOUT INDICATING ANY RESILIENCE AS TO SUBSTANCE. HE INVITED AMBASSADOR TO TALK ON SOME OCCASION TO A REPRESENTATIVE GROUP OF THE SCHOOL'S PARENTS -- AN INVITATION WE THINK IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO ACCEPT AT THIS STAGE. IN OUR JUDGMENT, TRONCOSO WILL BE AN EASIER MAN WITH WHOM TO NEGOTIATE THAN HIS PREDECESSOR, BUT IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER HE WILL BE ANY MORE FORTHCOMING WITH RESPECT TO THE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES INVOLVED.
POPPER

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